village level co-operatives, industries, State Governments are entitled to apply for aid from the Consumer Welfare Fund. The assistance will be provided on a project basis and will be mainly for production and distribution of publicity material, setting up of facilities for training and research in consumer education, community based rural awareness projects, setting up of consumer products testing laboratories etc. The terms and conditions for utilising the Funds will be prescribed at the time of sanction.

The Consumer Welfare Fund became operational from 27-1-1994 and applications have been invited to reach the Ministry before 31-5-1994.

It is too early to comment on achievement of objectives.

खाद्यान्नों पर सहायता में वृद्धि

4260. **श्री जगन्नाथ सिंह :** क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार की योजना के अधीन आदिवासी क्षेत्रों के लिए राज्यों को रियायती दर पर जो खाद्यान्नों की आपूर्ति की जाती है, उसे लगभग चार वर्ष पूर्व 25 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल मार्जिन की दर से निर्धारित किया गया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या राज्यों से सूचना प्राप्त करने के बाद वास्तविक व्यय को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस मार्जिन को निर्धारित किया गया था;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि विभिन्न राज्यों ने इस अतिरिक्त राशि को अपर्याप्त बताते हुए इसमें वृद्धि करने के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार से अनुरोध किया है ;

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने यातायात व्यय, माल लादने और उतारने के प्रभार आदि की दरों में वृद्धि के अनुरूप, चार वर्ष पहले निर्धारित इस मार्जिन की राशि में कोई वृद्धि नहीं की है ; और

(ङ) यदि राज्य सरकारों द्वारा खर्च की जा रही वास्तविक राशि से केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित मार्जिन की यह राशि कम है, तो राज्यों/राज्यों के आपूर्ति निगमों द्वारा उठाये जा रहे घाटों की प्रतिपूर्ति हेतु केन्द्रीय सरकार ने क्या व्यवस्था की है ?

नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद) : (क) 25 रुपए प्रति क्विंटल का मार्जिन दिसंबर, 1985 में नियत किया गया था, जब समेकित अधिकारी विकास परियोजना क्षेत्रों में विशेष रूप से राजसहायता प्राप्त मूल्यों पर खाद्यान्नों के वितरण हेतु योजना शुरू की गई थी ।

(ख) इसे अन्तिम रूप दिए जाने से पहले भारत सरकार के कई मंत्रालयों और विभागों तथा अनेक राज्य सरकारों के साथ परामर्श किया गया था ।

(ग) कुछ राज्य सरकारों ने बैठकों तथा चर्चाओं में वर्तमान मार्जिन अपर्याप्त होने का जिक्र किया है ।

(घ) और (ङ) सम्पुष्ट सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के तहत आने वाले चिरकालिक खाद्य की कमी वाले क्षेत्रों में रह रहे उपभोक्ताओं के लिए दिए जा सकने वाले मूल्य बनाए रखने के वांछित उद्देश्य के अनुरूप मार्जिन में वृद्धि नहीं की गई है । केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा विशेष रूप से राजसहायता प्राप्त मूल्यों पर खाद्यान्न जारी करने में पहले से वहन की जा रही वार्षिक सहायता के अतिरिक्त और सहायता देने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है ।

Loss to BCCL and ECL

4261. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the loss of Bharat Coking Coal Limited and Eastern Coalfields Limited during the last three years and their production, facts in detail with year-wise breakup;

(b) what are the details of their manpower;

(c) the out-turn per man shift (OMS) underground and open cast; and

(d) the break-up of OMS to make these companies viable and the steps taken to attain that?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The details of profits(+)/losses(—) in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) during the last two years were as under:—

(Before contributions from Coal Price Regulation Account)
(Rs. in crores)

	ECL	BCCL
1991-92 .	(—) 319.79	(—) 380.09
1992-93 .	(—) 346·35	(—) 337.30

The details of profit/loss during 1993-94 will be available only after the accounts are finalised and audited.

The details of production of coal in these two companies during the last three years were as under:—

(In million tonnes)

	ECL	BCCL
1991-92 .	24.52	27.00
1992-93 .	24.06	28.06
1993-94 (P)	22.60	29.03

(b) The manpower position of BCCL and ECL as on 31-12-1993 was as under:—

BCCL .... 1,57,720 ECL 1,72.624

(c) The underground and opencast Out put per Manshift (OMS) in BCCL and ECL during 1993-94 (April-December, 1993) were as under:—

(Rs. per tonne)

	Under-ground OMS	Opencast OMS	Overall
BCCL .	0.46	2.00	0.81
ECL .	0.42	1.36	0.54

(d) The break up of OMS between opencast and underground mines has already been furnished above.

Some of the major steps taken to increase productivity and to reduce cost of production of coal include the following:

(i) Improved manpower planning including redeployment of surplus workers and restricting the intake of new employees against vacancies caused by natural wastage.

(ii) Control on increase in manpower through voluntary retirement scheme.

(iii) The concept of 'all men—all jobs' is being tried on an experimental basis.

(iv) Improvement in the availability and utilisation of equipment by providing adequate workshop support, unproved management of spares and timely rehabilitation of equipments.

(v) Increase in production and productivity with special emphasis on underground mines.

(vi) A number of systems improvement and managerial measures have been adopted to improve efficiency of operations.

Performance of coal washeries

4262. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PIL-LAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the coal washeries are discharging good amount of fine particles of coking coal to the river bed;

(b) whether Government are also aware that fine coal particles can be recovered by adopting new technologies;

(c) whether Government have adopted new technologies in the coal washeries;

(d) if so, where the technologies have been adopted;

(e) whether it is also a fact that introduction of floatation cell in the washing circuit can recover valuable coking coal particles; and

(f) if so, how many washeries have introduced floatation cell and what are their performances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJTT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Most of the washeries are designed to operate in close circuit with in-built provision of reclaiming coal fines. Sometimes, due to operational problems such as power failure, break-down etc. some quantity of fine coal escapes alongwith washery discharge. There is a provision in each washery to capture the over flow in slurry ponds where coal fines are settled and reclaimed. During rainy season the settlement of coal' fines in slurry ponds is less effective.

(c) to (e) Froth floatation technology has been introduced in the coal washeries to recover and beneficiate fine coal particles.

(f) Floatation cells have been introduced in 10 public sector washeries and the performance of these are by and large satisfactory except for operational problems mentioned at (b).